

Deb Walters
Frankfort
LD 785

From: Dr. Deborah Walters, 14 Brooklyn Road, Frankfort, 04438

Re: Support for LD 785, An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations^[1]_{SEP}

Intro: Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Deborah Walters and I live in Frankfort. I am here to testify in support of LD 785.^[1]_{SEP}

Testimony: I live on a tidal tributary of the Penobscot River. I am so happy that Niweskok has moved into our neighboring town with their commitment to revitalizing the Penobscot Bay as an Indigenous food hub. It has been fascinating talking with them about the food value of the cattails below the house we live in. Their commitment to being good neighbors has included building low-cost window inserts to be used to reduce heating costs. These are just a few of the advantages to us non-natives as we work together with the Wabanaki nations.

There could be so many more economic opportunities for our communities if the Wabanaki Nations could access all of the federal programs that other federally recognized tribes have automatic access to. This would be a win- win for our rural communities.

Respecting the treaties with the Wabanaki was laid down in the Constitution of the state of Maine. It's good that that portion of the constitution is finally being published with the rest of the constitution.

It's time for Maine to respect our constitution and support Wabanaki self-determination.

^[1]_{SEP}

Closing: Thank you for reading my reasons for supporting LD 785.